# Heavenly Children

## The Best Playmate

Imam Husayn (A)

5

SUGGESTED AGES 7+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

**Disclaimer:** Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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# HEAVENLY CHILDREN

## The Best Playmate

Kisa Kids Publications

## *Dedication*

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

## *Original Author*

Abul Faḍl Hādī Manish

## *Acknowledgments*

*Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.*
*Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.*

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Fatemah Mithani, Amna Hussain, Asieh Zarghami, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Kisae Nazar, Sarah Assaf, Nadia Dossani, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Fatima Hussain, Fatemah Meghji, Abeda Khimji, Sakeena Kalyan, Zehra Abbas, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nainava Publications for their artwork and contributions.

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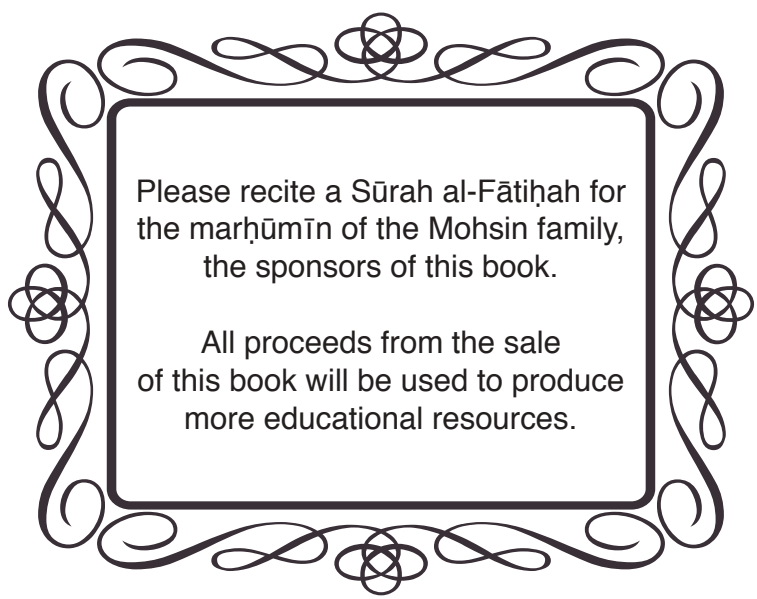

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Mohsin family, the sponsors of this book.
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to produce more educational resources.

# Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

| | |
|---|---|
| ء | a, i, or u (initial form) |
| ء | ʾ (medial or final form) |
| ا | a |
| ب | b |
| ت | t |
| ث | th |
| ج | j |
| ح | ḥ |
| خ | kh |
| د | d |
| ذ | dh |
| ر | r |
| ز | z |
| س | s |
| ش | sh |
| ص | ṣ |
| ض | ḍ |
| ط | ṭ |
| ظ | ẓ |
| ع | ʿ |
| غ | gh |
| ف | f |
| ق | q |
| ك | k |
| ل | l |
| م | m |
| ن | n |
| ه | h |
| و | w |
| ي | y |

| | |
|---|---|
| ـَ | a |
| ـِ | i |
| ـُ | u |
| ـّ | double letter |
| آ / ـَا / ىٰ | ā |
| ـِي | ī |
| ـُو | ū |

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

## *Preface*

*Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):*
*Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).*

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of the *Heavenly Children* series is to foster the love of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in children and to help them establish the 14 Maʿṣūmīn as their role models. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

## *About the Board ʿĀlim*

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

*You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.*
*Share the word, and join the mission.*

Ahmad's family was going to go on a ziyārah trip to visit all fourteen Maʿṣūmīn. Ahmad was very excited to learn a little bit about each of the people they were going to visit. Baba had told him a wonderful story about Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) as a child.

"Imām Ḥasan had a brother, right? He was also an Imām?" asked Ahmad.

"Yes!" Mama replied. "Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) was born on the 3rd of Shaʿbān to Imām Alī (ʿa) and Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa). We remember Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) every year during the month of Muḥarram because he was martyred on the day of ʿĀshūrāʾ," his mother explained.

"I remember, in Karbalāʾ, right? Why did they martyr him? Wasn't he as good and special as his brother?" asked Ahmad.

"Yes, of course, and it was because of his goodness and purity that the enemies of Allah killed him in battle. There was an evil man named Yazīd, who was the son of Muʿāwiyah. Yazīd wanted to be the ruler, and he wanted Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) to accept him as the ruler. Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) refused, though, because he could not accept an evil ruler. Yazīd was a bad man and did many ḥarām things. Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) was a virtuous and pure servant of Allah, and for this, Allah chose him to guide the people. And part of that was showing the people that they cannot be okay with an evil ruler. So, Yazīd sent a huge army to battle Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), his family, friends, and followers. They were only a small army of 72, while Yazīd's army had thousands of people. Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and his companions were martyred on the day of ʿĀshūrāʾ in the land of Karbalāʾ."

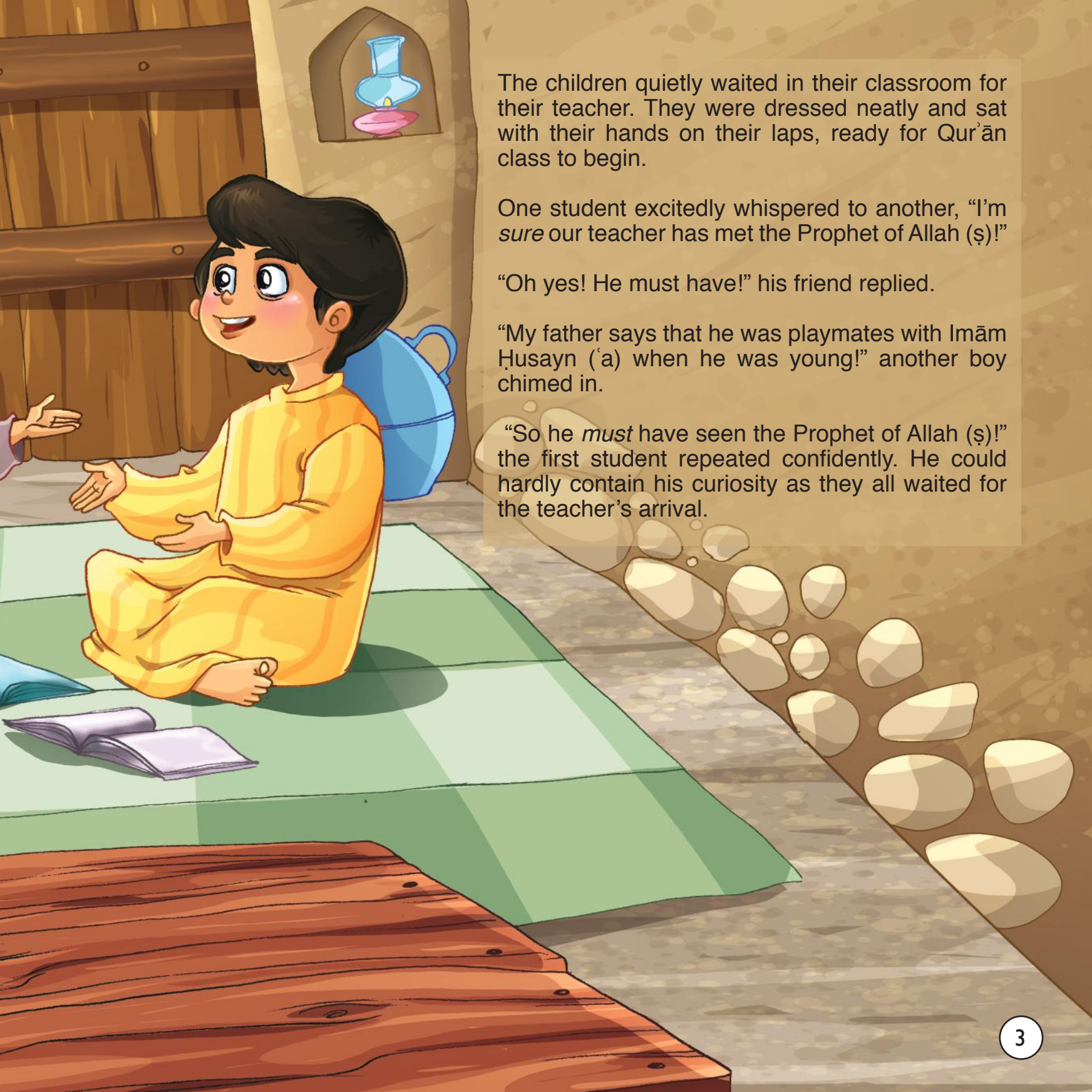
"It's a very sad story, but I love to hear and learn from it every year at the masjid," Ahmad said. "So does this mean we get to visit Karbalāʾ?" he asked eagerly.

"Yes, inshāʾAllāh, we will visit Sayyid ash-Shuhadāʾ in Karbalāʾ!" Mama replied.

Ahmad asked, "What does 'Sayyid ash-Shuhadāʾ' mean?"

"That is one of the titles of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)," Baba explained. "It means the 'leader of the martyrs.' It means he has a very, very high status with Allah. He was a very special person, even as a child. The Prophet (ṣ) loved him so much, and so did his friends. Would you like to hear a story about when Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) was a boy your age?"

"Yes please!" replied Ahmad.



The children quietly waited in their classroom for their teacher. They were dressed neatly and sat with their hands on their laps, ready for Qurʾān class to begin.

One student excitedly whispered to another, “I’m *sure* our teacher has met the Prophet of Allah (ṣ)!”

“Oh yes! He must have!” his friend replied.

“My father says that he was playmates with Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) when he was young!” another boy chimed in.

“So he *must* have seen the Prophet of Allah (ṣ)!” the first student repeated confidently. He could hardly contain his curiosity as they all waited for the teacher’s arrival.

Just then, the classroom door creaked open slowly. The children sat up a little taller and straighter; their teacher had arrived! An old, wrinkled face peered into the room, with warm eyes and a welcoming smile.

The students looked eagerly towards their teacher, shyly smiling back. Abū Rāfiʿ leaned against the door as he slowly removed his slippers.

As he entered the classroom, the students quickly stood up. “Salāmun ʿalaykum,” they called out together, respectfully greeting their teacher.

Abū Rāfiʿ smiled and replied, “Wa ʿalaykum salām.”

Abū Rāfiʿ walked towards his desk and sat down. Out of respect, the children waited for him to sit first before seating themselves.

He began taking attendance by asking for each child's name. "What is your name, my dear son?" he asked one child.

The young boy proudly answered, "My name is Ḥusayn."

Abū Rāfiʿ paused and smiled while he softly whispered to himself, "Ḥusayn, dearest Ḥusayn."

He was about to move on to the next child when he heard a quiet voice. "Teacher, is it true that you met Allah's Messenger (ṣ), and you played with Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)?"

Abū Rāfiʿ smiled and replied, "Yes, yes my dear son. I was Imām Ḥusayn's playmate. We were the same age."

The sunlight poured through the window, shining on the tears welling up in Abū Rāfiʿs eyes.

The tears began trickling down his cheeks. Wiping them away, he continued with a pang of sorrow in his voice, “He was the best of playmates!”

One child asked kindly, “Teacher, can you please tell us about your time with Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)?”

Abū Rāfiʿ did not hear, though, and the tears kept rolling down his face. He was lost in thought.

Again, another child asked sweetly, “Can you please tell us a story about Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)?”

Abū Rāfiʿ placed the Qurʾān on the desk as he looked back at the children. He smiled and asked, “Would you like me to tell you about Imām Ḥusayn’s childhood?”

The children nodded. “What would you like me to tell you?”

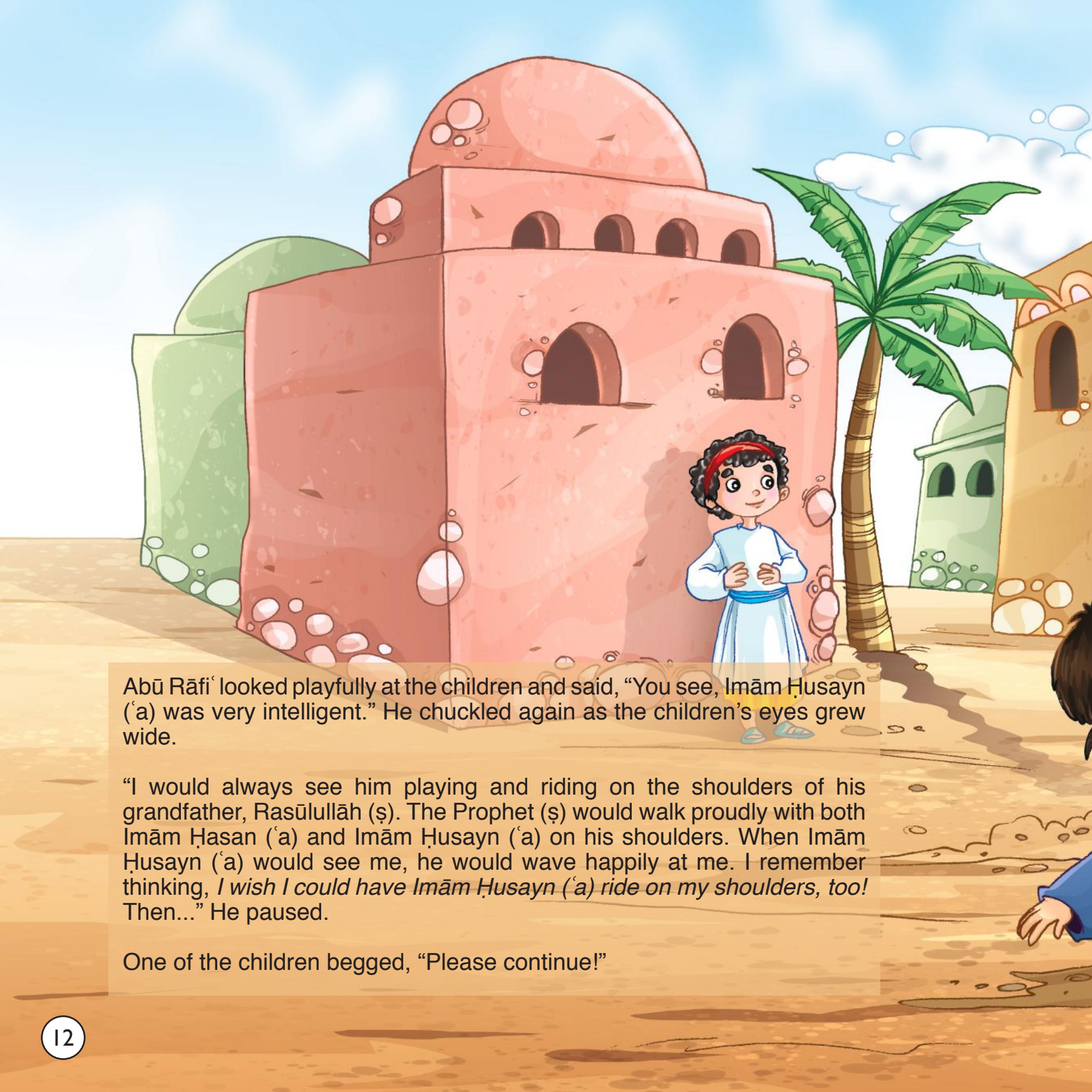
One child said, “Tell us about the games you used to play!”

Abū Rāfiʿ laughed softly, “You want to know about our games?”

He swallowed hard and continued, “While I was growing up, I used to love playing with him!

One of the games we would play was throwing rocks in a hole. After digging a hole, we would take some rocks and try to throw them in the hole. If you missed the hole, the next person had to try to hit your rock with his rock. If he was able to hit your rock, you would have to give him a piggyback ride. Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) was very good at this game, but…” his voice trailed off as he chuckled.

The children excitedly asked, “But what?! But what?!”



Abū Rāfiʿ looked playfully at the children and said, “You see, Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) was very intelligent.” He chuckled again as the children’s eyes grew wide.

“I would always see him playing and riding on the shoulders of his grandfather, Rasūlullāh (ṣ). The Prophet (ṣ) would walk proudly with both Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) and Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on his shoulders. When Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) would see me, he would wave happily at me. I remember thinking, *I wish I could have Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) ride on my shoulders, too!* Then...” He paused.

One of the children begged, “Please continue!”

Abū Rāfiʿ again teased playfully, “You *really* want to know?”

All the children shouted in unison, “Yes, teacher!”

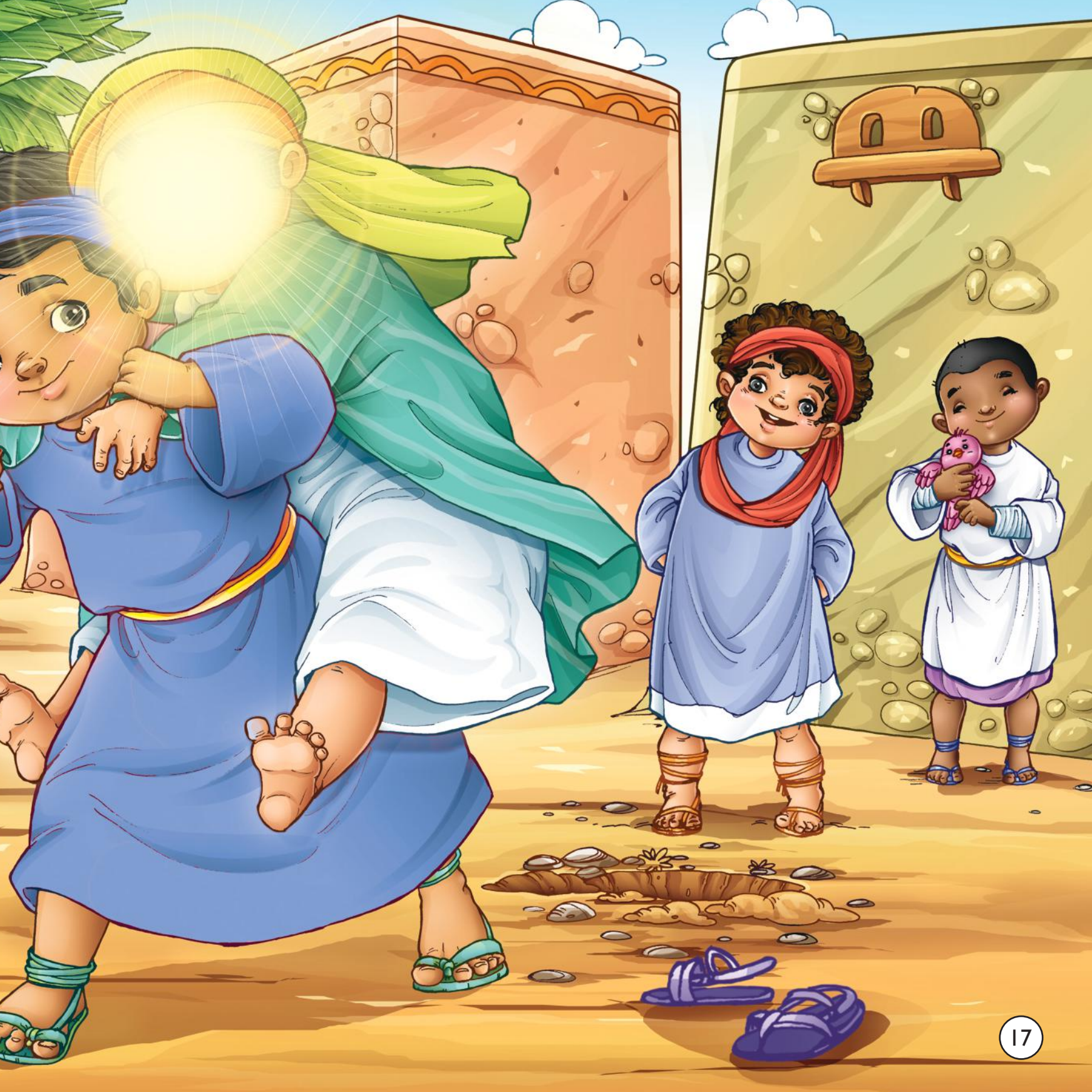
He continued, “Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) was very good at games, but he was also a very good sport. Many times, while we were playing the game of stones, he would let my rock hit his rock so that I could win and he would have to give me a piggyback ride.

“But whenever this happened, I would remember how he rode on the shoulders of the Prophet (ṣ). I would think, *How can I ride on the shoulders of someone who has ridden on the shoulders of Rasūlullāh (ṣ)?!* Instead, I would insist that he ride on my shoulders, since that was the true prize in my eyes.”

Abū Rāfiʿ continued, “Then, when he would hit my stone, before he could say anything, I would already be kneeling, ready for him to climb onto my shoulders!

“Realizing what an honor it was to be just like the Prophet (ṣ), I would proudly smile as Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) would ride on my shoulders. You might be wondering how I managed to carry Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on my shoulders so many times. That’s the miracle…” He paused, “Maybe I’ll continue this tomorrow.”

The students begged, “No, please continue!”



Abū Rāfiʿ smiled and continued, "You see, when Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) climbed onto my shoulders, he was almost weightless! It felt like there was nothing on my shoulders! And in return, Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) would hug me and be kind to me. This happened many times, and to this day, it is one of my favorite childhood memories."

The children all giggled when they heard this story. The sunlight from the morning was now shining brightly through the window and upon the classroom. Abū Rāfiʿ again looked towards the children and picked up his Qurʾān, kissed it, and said, "Alright children, it is time to begin our Qurʾān class."



Nāsikh al-Tawārīkh, Vol. 1, P. 43

# *Glossary*

***(ṣ):*** Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

***(swt):*** All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

***(ʿa):*** Peace and blessings be upon him/her

***(ʿaj):*** May God hasten his reappearance

***Ahl al-Bayt:*** Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

***Akhlāq:*** Islamic morals and ethics

***al-Fātiḥah:*** The first *sūrah* of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

***Alḥamdulillāh:*** All praise is for God

***Baba:*** Father

***Duʿāʾ:*** Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

***Imām:*** A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

***InshāʾAllāh:*** God-willing

***Kaʿbah:*** The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

***Mama:*** Mother

***Marḥūmīn:*** Someone who has passed away

***MāshāʾAllāh:*** As God wishes

***Masjid:*** Mosque

***Maʿṣūmīn:*** One who is inerrant (free of all sins, flaws, and impurities) through the divine protection and knowledge of Allah

***Qurʾān:*** The holy book of Muslims

***Rasūlullāh:*** A title referring to the Noble Prophet Muḥammad

***Salāmun ʿalaykum:*** Peace be upon you

***SubḥānAllāh:*** All Glory and Praise belongs to God

***Tawfīq:*** Divine blessings from God (Allah) that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

***Wa ʿalaykum salām:*** And peace be upon you too

***Ziyārah:*** Visiting the house of Allah, grave of the Noble Prophet, Imāms and other important personalities

***ʿĀshūrāʾ:*** The 10th day of Muḥarram on which the tragedy of Karbala took place

***ʿUlamāʾ:*** Scholars

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